

Claims:

1. A stent for introducing within a body comprising:  
a plurality of vessel support elements, a first one of said vessel support elements forming a first end support element and second one of said support elements forming a second end support element; and  
at least one support rail element extending between said end support elements and including a curved end section for extending beyond one of the end support elements, wherein a plurality of said vessel support elements are moveable along and relative to said at least one support rail element.
2. The stent according to claim 1, wherein said at least one support rail element includes a plurality of curved end sections.
3. The stent according to claim 2, wherein said at least one support rail element includes a plurality of elongated sections extending between the curved end sections located at opposite ends of said stent.
4. The stent according to claim 3, wherein said elongated sections are integrally connected to each other by respective curved end sections.
5. The stent according to claim 4, wherein said stent includes a single support rail element that extends along multiple axes of said stent, said axes being substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent.
6. The stent according to claim 2, wherein said at least one support rail element includes a single elongated member extending between respective curved end sections, and wherein said respective curved end sections have terminal ends secured to a respective one of said vessel support elements.

7. The stent according to claim 1, wherein said at least one support rail element comprises a plurality of elongated sections and a curved section extending between said elongated sections.

8. The stent according to claim 7, wherein said elongated sections each have a first end secured to the first end support element and a second end integral with said curved section.

9. The stent according to claim 8, wherein said second ends of said elongated sections are free of a direct connection to said second end support element.

10. The stent according to claim 1, wherein said at least one support rail element comprises a support rail element that has a terminus secured to a vessel support element positioned between said first end support element and said second end support element.

11. The stent according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said vessel support elements or at least one of said support rail elements comprising a biocompatible material.

12. The stent according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said vessel support elements or at least one of said support rail elements comprising a base material having a biocompatible covering.

13. The stent according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said vessel support elements or at least one of said support rail elements comprising at least one agent for delivery to the body.

14. The stent according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said vessel support elements or at least one of said support rail elements comprising a base material having a coating of at least one agent for delivery to the body.